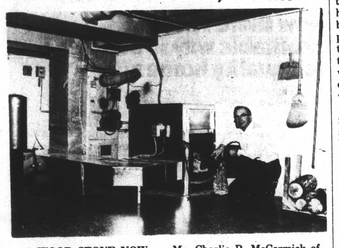
THEN and NOW!

By Frances H. Paulette

"Give The Fire A Chunk, Charlie!"



A WOOD STOVE NOW --- Mr. Charlie R. McCormick of Spout Spring pauses before putting another stick of wood in his new wood burning furnace. Go by and see it, you might like it!

A WOOD STOVE --- THEN, was the only means of heating Buck Creek School where Charlie McCormick remembers well gathering wood for the stove and storing it under the building.

Cold weather got you down? Just how are you handling it? Are you forever turning the thermostat up, getting yourself good and warm and then complaining about the high cost of electricity and fuel oil? Or maybe you belong to another group, the brave ones --- those determined souls who refuse to turn up the heat; they're just shivering through the winter, praying earnestly for an early spring.

Now wait a minute, you say, there is another option; one that is becoming increasingly popular --- the wood stove. Warm? Oh yes! Messy? Kinda! Efficient? I've heard a lot of different opinions; someone put it rather well, "It's good, but could be better!" "Better? Let's see about that --

Charlie McCormick, 68, of Spout Spring, hearing so much about the energy crisis, began to think about getting a wood burning stove. This way he could do his bit to conserve energy and at the same time supplement his heating needs.

Heating with wood is nothing new to Mr. McCormick who was born and reared on a farm in Appomattox County. Sawing, splitting, and taking wood into the house was a part of his regular routine when he was a boy. He recalled that as a school boy attending Buck Creek School in Appomattox County, (Miss Addie Childers, now Mrs. Addie Ould was the teacher), the boys had the responsibility of getting the wood for the stove that heated the classroom. Each week certain boys would be appointed to scout the wooded area surrounding or near the school for dead branches to be used as fuel. The boys would collect it and pile it under the school building for use as needed. It was a rare occasion, according to Mr. McCormick, when someone brought a load of wood to the school for fuel.

Charlie wanted to be a preacher until about grade 9; then very suddenly it became very important to him to quit school and get a job and began making money. When he told his mother of his decision, she admonished him saying, "Charlie, you are going to have to work awfully hard in life if you don't finish your education." His quick reply was "Mama, I don't want anything that I don't work for!" That's the way it has been --- Charlie McCormick has worked hard. He has farmed, cut timber, worked on the railroad, and when he retired he was working for the Lynchburg Foundry.

It was November of last year that Charlie McCormick finally decided to go ahead and have the wood stove built and then he installed it himself in the basement of his home. The stove was doing a really fine job of supplementing the oil furnace in his home, but Charlie got to thinking, "Why not make a good thing better?" He began to talk with his brother, Bolden McCormick, Mark Hipps of Pamplin and W. A. Lamb of near Red House. If two heads are better than one, then it stands to reason that several heads are even better!

After discussing their ideas and putting them all together, Mr. McCormick decided to enclose the wood stove, installing an automatic switch and connecting it into the cold air return of the existing furnace. The automatic switch cuts the fan on and off and when the fan is operating, hot air is then pulled from the wood stove through the duct work into the rooms upstairs, heating them comfortably.

Mr. McCormick told me that he puts wood in the stove in the early morning, around noon and again in the evening.

There is no doubt that Mr. McCormick is quite an ingenuous man. He began to think, "You know, this is pretty good! I don't see why I can't go one step further and heat the water also." Again he got busy; with the help of his brother Bolden, he had a five gallon water tank built and they are in the process of installing it on top of the stove and plumbing it into the present water heater. This will heat the water in the tank on the stove and store it in the water heater.

Are you sure, Mr. McCormick, that maybe there weren't some inventors in your family background? Without a doubt, Charlie has become very innovative in conserving energy and cutting down on his heating cost at the same time. He is proud, and rightly so, of his accomplishment; he cordially invites anyone who wishes to see the new wood furnace to come by his home for a visit. The McCormick home, consisting of 6 rooms and a full basement are comfortably heated and Mr. McCormick figures the total cost at about $500.00 not counting his time and energy and of course his "know how!"

Before you decide to visit Charlie and the new furnace, maybe you had better give him a call, he's quite a busy man. Though retired, he keeps busy with his farm, is a deacon in Liberty Baptist Church where for many years he taught a class in Sunday School. He enjoys visiting with his friends, hunts a little and likes to fish, but just doesn't have the time.

Charlie McCormick, who admitted that he did not know what it felt like to have headache pain, has worked hard, enjoyed a good life and proudly stated that he has "tried to put God first in everything he has undertaken."

A wood stove THEN --- a wood stove NOW. Keep up the good work Charlie, and give the fire a chunk!

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Home Economists To Pick "Teacher of the Year"

The Virginia Home Economics Association will conduct a statewide search for candidates to compete in the fifth annual Home Economics Teacher of the Year Awards Program, co-sponsored by the American Home Economics Association and **Family Circle** magazine.

According to Mrs. Vanis J. Irick, President of VHEA, "The winner in the state will be considered in the final selection at VHEA headquarters in Washington, D.C. for the National Teacher of the Year Award. The members who win in their state will receive recognition for innovative, creative programs and instructional methods which stimulate students to learn and apply their knowledge to situations outside of the classroom."

Any individual or organization can submit nominations to Mary E. Mason, Awards Chairman, 1102 Greengate Road, Fredericksburg, Va. 22401 by Jan. 31, 1978. Members of VHEA who are home economics teachers of grades, kindergarten through twelve are eligible.

A selection committee including members of VHEA and community organizations will judge nominees on the following criteria: innovative and creative programs and teaching methods: impact of teaching on individuals, families and the community; integration of home economics subject matter with other disciplines such as health, science, the arts or social studies; student motivation through imaginative techniques; and effectiveness in stimulating students' individual growth in and out of the classroom.

The state winner will be honored during the annual VHEA meeting to be held in Richmond, Va. April 5-8, 1978. The winner will also receive specially designed TOY jewelry and plaque.

The national winner will be announced at the VHEA annual meeting in New Orleans in June and will receive a cash award, plaque and national media exposure.

Nomination forms are available from Awards Chairman Mary E. Mason.

The Virginia Home Economics Association is affiliated with the American Home Economics Association -- a national organization with more than 53,000 men and women in home economics. One of the 15 largest professional associations in the United States, AHEA has affiliated home economics associations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

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SOME TAXPAYERS MAY QUALIFTY FOR EARNED INCOME CREDIT

"If a taxpayer qualifies, he may be able to take a credit against his income tax liability based on his earned income as well as his adjusted gross income," states Garnett Walker, Lynchburg manager of H & R Block, the nation's largest tax preparation firm.

Earned income includes wages, salaries and other employee compensation, plus earnings from self-employment. The credit is based on 10% of the first $4,000 of earned income, Walker said.

"In order to take the credit, the taxpayer must an eligible individual. To be eligible he must maintain a household for the entire year, in the United States, which is the principal place of abode for himself and at least one of his or her children who is under age 19 or a full-time student. In addition, an adult disabled son or daughter whom the taxpayer is entitled to claim as a dependent may enable a taxpayer to claim the credit. The taxpayer must also not be entitled to exclude any income earned outside the U.S. or from U.S. possessions, file a joint return if married, and have a taxable year that represents a full 12 months," Walker explains.

"This earned income credit can also be received as a refund even if the taxpayer would not otherwise be required to file a tax return," Walker adds.

The manager would be happy to answer tax questions from anyone who calls the Block office at 846-1387 between the hours of 9 and 9 weekdays, and 9 to 5 on Saturdays and Sundays.

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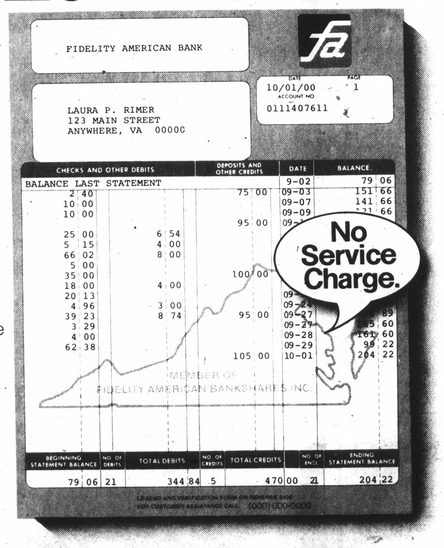

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